

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing electronic messages, comprising:  
receiving a plurality of electronic messages directing to a user, each message having a unique message identifier;  
associating each of the plurality of electronic messages with a respective conversation, each conversation having a unique conversation identifier; wherein each conversation comprises a set of one or more electronic messages; and  
displaying a list of conversations in a predetermined order, each conversation being represented as a single item in the list.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of conversations comprises a set of rows, each row corresponding to one of the listed conversations and including at least a sender list, a conversation topic and a date/time value.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sender list of a row in the list of conversations includes identifiers of one or more senders of at least one message in the corresponding conversation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein, when the conversation corresponding to the row includes a message sent by a first sender and one or more messages sent by a second sender, the displaying includes displaying in a first distinct format an identifier of the first sender in the sender list when the message sent by the first sender has not been viewed or marked as read by the user, and displaying in second distinct format an identifier of the second sender in the sender list when all the messages sent by the second sender have been viewed or marked as read by the user.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the displaying includes highlighting a sender's name in the sender list when a message sent by the sender has not been read by the user.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein a sender's identifier in the sender list is replaced with a unique character string or icon when the sender is the user.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the unique character string is a self-referencing identifier in a particular language.

8. The method of claim 3, including associating with the conversation a set of senders of messages included in the conversation, the sender list including identifiers of a plurality of the senders in the set of senders, but less than all of the senders in the set of senders, when the set of senders exceeds a predefined limit.
9. The method of claim 3, wherein a sender's identifier is assigned a priority, for determining which sender identifiers to include in the sender list, wherein the priority is determined in accordance with date/time information and status information associated with the messages in the conversation.
10. The method of claim 2, wherein a row in the set of rows includes a message number indicator that indicates a number of messages in the conversation.
11. The method of claim 2, wherein a row in the set of rows includes a recipient indicator that indicates whether the user is a primary recipient or secondary recipient of any message in the conversation.
12. The method of claim 2, wherein the conversation topic of a row in the set of rows includes a conversation name and a snippet from the conversation associated with the row.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the conversation name of the conversation is highlighted when the conversation includes at least one message that has not been viewed or marked as read by the user.
14. The method of claim 2, wherein the conversation topic of a row in the set of rows includes a conversation name and a description of the conversation associated with the row.
15. The method of claim 2, wherein the date/time value in a row of the set of rows comprises a date/time value associated with a most recent message of the conversation that satisfies a predefined query.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the conversations in the list of conversations are monotonically ordered according to their date/time values.
17. The method of claim 2, wherein  
every conversation in the list of conversations includes at least one message marked with a particular label;

the date/time value in each row of the set of rows comprises a date/time value associated with a most recent message of the conversation that is marked with the particular label;

the conversations in the list of conversations are monotonically ordered according to their date/time values.

18. The method of claim 2, including enabling a user to identify one or more conversations in the list of conversations, to mark the identified conversations as belonging to a particular category, and displaying another list of conversations comprising conversations marked as belonging to the particular category.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the particular category has a unique identifier provided by the user.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the list of conversations belonging to the particular category is produced by executing a corresponding search query.

21. The method of claim 2, including displaying content of a conversation when the user selects a conversation in the displayed list of conversations.

22. The method of claim 21, including, while displaying the content of a conversation, enabling the user to associate the conversation with a category, the category having a user-specified identifier.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein displaying the content of a conversation includes displaying one or more sub-forms, each sub-form corresponding to a respective electronic message in the conversation, and each sub-form having two display modes, including a compacted display mode and an expanded display mode.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the sub-forms corresponding to electronic messages that have been viewed or marked as read by the user are rendered in the compacted display mode and the sub-forms corresponding to electronic messages that have not been viewed or marked as read by the user are rendered in the expanded display mode.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein a sub-form includes a concise message header, a detailed message header, a message body and a plurality of message redirecting control means.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the concise message header includes an identifier of the message sender and a list of identifiers of primary message recipients.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the identifier of any of the message sender and the primary message recipients is highlighted when the associated message comprises a first participation in the conversation by the message sender or the primary message recipient.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the identifier of the user as the message sender or one of the primary message recipients is replaced with a unique character string or an icon.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the unique character string is a self-referencing identifier in a particular language.
30. The method of claim 25, wherein the detailed message header includes addresses of the message sender, the primary message recipients, and secondary message recipients of the message, the date/time value associated with the message and a plurality of message processing control means.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of message processing control means include a means for deleting the message from the conversation.
32. The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of message processing control means include a means for displaying the message in an original format of the message.
33. The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of message processing control means include a means for adding a sender or recipient's address to a list of contacts associated with the user.
34. The method of claim 25, wherein the sub-form provides a means for rendering the detailed message header visible or invisible to the user.
35. The method of claim 25, wherein displaying the content of a conversation includes displaying a plurality of the sub-forms when the conversation includes a plurality of messages, and wherein the plurality of message redirecting control means in each of the displayed sub-forms includes a means for producing a reply form to prepare a message to the message sender and/or any of the primary and secondary message recipients.

36. The method of claim 25, wherein displaying the content of a conversation includes displaying a means for rendering a spelling check sub-form that includes a copy of the message body, highlights any potentially misspelled words in the message body and associates with at least one potentially misspelled word a list of candidate words.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein the check sub-form includes an option for the user to replace the potentially misspelled word with a user specified replacement word.
38. The method of claim 36, wherein the check sub-form includes a spelling correction window positioned at a user selected potentially misspelled word, and further includes an expansion means for expanding the spelling correction window to include additional text positioned immediately before or after the user selected potentially misspelled word.
39. The method of claim 21, wherein displaying the conversation content includes displaying a means for removing the conversation from the displayed list of conversations, while keeping the conversation in a database of conversations associated with the user.
40. The method of claim 39, wherein the means for removing the conversation from the displayed list of conversations includes a means for bringing the conversation back to the displayed list of conversations when user specified criteria are met.
41. The method of claim 40, wherein the criteria include a time triggering condition upon which the conversation is brought back to the displayed list of conversations.
42. The method of claim 40, wherein the criteria include an event triggering condition upon which the conversation is brought back to the displayed list of conversations.
43. A method for displaying electronic messages, comprising:  
receiving a plurality of electronic messages directed to a user, each message having a unique message identifier;  
generating a plurality of conversations such that each conversation comprises a unique subset of the plurality of electronic messages and a unique conversation identifier;  
selecting a list of conversations from the plurality of conversations in accordance with a predefined query; and  
displaying the list of conversations in a predetermined order, each conversation being represented as a single item in the list.

44. A method for generating a form for a user to check and respond to a plurality of electronic messages, comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic messages directing to a user, each message having a unique message identifier;

associating each of the plurality of electronic messages with a respective conversation, each conversation having a unique conversation identifier; wherein each conversation comprises a set of one or more electronic messages; and

displaying a list of conversations in a predetermined order, each conversation being represented as a single item in the list and including at least a sender list, a conversation topic and a date/time value, wherein the sender list of the conversation includes identifiers of multiple senders, but less than all the senders of the conversation.